





The Tongue of the Ocean

DEEP-BLUE BRANCH of the Atlantic basin cuts into the azure Bahama Bank, photographed from 105 miles above by Apollo 9 astronauts orbiting the earth. Near southern Andros at left, the Tongue of the Ocean, partly obscured by clouds,

curves into an oval tip 40 miles across. Scientists believe that turbulence on the ocean floor formed the Tongue by keeping it clean of the limestone particles that built the surrounding bank. Tidal currents receding from the shallows furrow the

rim. Seventy miles north, the Wall slopes steeply 6,000 feet to the channel floor (next page). Openings along the Wall may admit sea water later disgorged from blue holes, which could explain why the output of the holes appears to exceed intake.